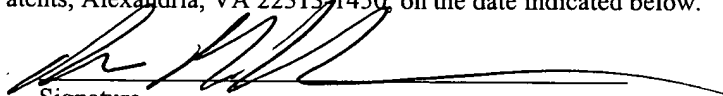


Atty Dkt No. PP01617.002  
PATENT

1648

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

2/7/05  
Date

  
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

COIT et al.

Confirmation No.: 2173

Serial No.: 09/721,479

Art Unit: 1648

Filing Date: November 22, 2000

Examiner: S. Chen

Title: NOVEL HCV NON-STRUCTURAL POLYPEPTIDE

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004, with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. Accordingly, an extension of time in which to respond is requested and the required fees accompany this response. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

A listing of claims is begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.